

California GARDEN

10c



SPANISH FOUNTAIN, MISSION INN
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

July
1934

International Fountains
by Allis M. Hutchings

—
New Plants From
The Mediterranean
by Eric Walther

—
Would You Like a
Green Lawn?
by H. O. Ketner

The Magazine . . .

"California Garden"

A Practical Local Guide published monthly
for more than 20 years
Subscription \$1.00 per year

The official organ of the San Diego Floral Association, in its 24th year of continuous activities. All interested in garden matters and civic beautification are invited to join. Dues \$1.50 per year. Magazine and Membership combined \$2.00 per year.

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Meeting held third Thursday of each month at Floral Building in Balboa Park, 7:30 P. M.

Shopping News Ptg. Co. 215 B St., San Diego

REPORT OF JUNE MEETINGS

Lilies for garden pictures was the inspiration given to the San Diego Floral Association at the June meeting by Mrs. Martha Phillips of Petaluma. With the help of pictures she showed the effects of lilies in plantings for large estates or small home gardens. *Lilium Regale* are without doubt accepted as the most satisfactory because of their love for the full sun. Mrs. Phillips advised their use in mixed borders with lovely colored flowering shrubs as companions. *Lilium Henryi*, a native of California, and *Lilium Hansoni* are colorful and grow very tall; good for adding brilliant color against greenery. One should not plant lilies unless planned to keep them in one place for many years because they do not like to be disturbed and improve with age. Mrs. Phillips, who is a noted landscape artist, gave many valuable suggestions for garden making along with her talk about lilies and left us all in a happy mood by reminding us that garden making is not all worms, work and worry, but should be digging, dreams and delight. We should make gardens for living in them, not for show, and express our own ideas even if they might not conform to the rules of architecture. Directors elected for the coming year are Mrs. Mary A. Greer, Erskine J. Campbell, Alfred Mitchell, Mrs. Mary E. Ward, Miss Alice Halliday, Mrs. Robert Morrison, R. R. McLean and Miss Kate O. Sessions.

The cult of garden making is steadily entrenching itself in the souls of the American people.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUMMER MEETINGS

Some fine programs have been arranged for the two summer meetings in July and August. Because of the Symphony concerts the directors have changed the date for these two meetings from Tuesday to Thursday nights. Thursday, July 19, John Wimmer will give a lecture on Design in the Small Garden. Mr. Wimmer is a graduate landscape architect from Stanford University and has had a course in Oxford, England. He is conducting a class in landscape gardening for the summer extension courses given by State College which is open to anyone interested. It is a rare opportunity for the Floral Association members to hear him.

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN DATE OF JULY AND AUGUST MEETINGS

Due to the conflict in dates with the Civic Orchestra concerts the San Diego Floral Association will hold its regular monthly meeting on the third Thursday of the month in July and August.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The incumbent officers of the San Diego Floral Association were re-elected at a meeting of the board of directors held July 5, 1934.

NOTICE

On file and for sale, complete copies of all "California Garden Magazines."

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR Of the Books of the San Diego Floral Association for the Year Ending June, 1934.

Receipts	\$1859.78
Disbursements	1835.23
	\$ 24.55
Bank Reconciliation:	
Cash book balance	\$24.55
Checks outstanding	24.55
Bank Balance	\$ 24.55
W. A. STUBBS, Auditor.	
Dated June 18, 1934.	

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Report of the Treasurer for the 27th year ending June 19, 1934.

RECEIPTS

Memberships	\$ 417.50
Subscribers	202.24
Advertising	314.46
Flower Shows	886.95
Cash on hand June, 1933	38.63
	\$1859.78

DISBURSEMENTS

Publication of California Garden	\$ 958.72
Current Expenses, Salaries, Supplies, etc.	541.65
Subscriptions to Floral Organizations	23.81
Expense of Flower Shows	311.05
Cash on hand June 19, 1934	24.55
	\$1859.78

Respectfully submitted,
ERSKINE J. CAMPBELL,
Treasurer.

June 19, 1934.

International Fountains

By ALLIS M. HUTCHINGS

*... A Well Planned Garden
the Crowning Glory of the Garden*

A CRITIC has aptly said that a fountain adorns a garden as beautiful tresses add loveliness to a woman's charm. A well planned fountain certainly can be a crowning glory to a garden that otherwise might be uninteresting. The variety of fountains make it not a difficult task to find an appropriate one for any garden, no matter how restricted or humble.

On the grounds and roof gardens of the Mission Inn, at Riverside, California, are several fountains of distinctive styles, each with its individual charm. More than one reflects the characteristic style of the country of its origin. They have come from many lands, and are very much in keeping with the international spirit of the Inn.

The form of architecture most predominating at Mission Inn is the Spanish, so it is especially fitting that the largest fountains are Spanish in style or origin. The fountain displaying most character is in the center of the Spanish Patio. One of its shining tiles relates that it is dedicated to Juan d'Anza, the famous Spanish explorer of California of over one hundred and fifty years ago. In all Spanish countries the outside walls of the dwellings are severe and uninviting. Most of the family life takes place in the inner courts or patios, to the accompaniment of running water in pools and fountains. For many years in the patio of Mission Inn guests have dined to the soft music of water gurgling from the mouths of strange looking Moorish gargoyles. These rare beasts are replicas in cement of a most unusual stone gargoyle, dating from the tenth century, which once graced the battlements of the Moorish stronghold Muriel, near Barcelona, in Spain. The original stone gargoyle is an object of great interest in the music room of the Inn. Four of these monsters guard the central basin of the fountain where the water plays in sprays several feet high. Each monster very complacently spits a stream of water into a little pool at his feet. Between these four low pools are earth spaces where sworn fern, umbrella plant, iris, lilies and English ivy are growing. The square base and middle trunk of the fountain are faced with Spanish tile from Triana, the tile works at Seville. Some have designs of Spanish provinces, while others are of Moorish motives. The most interesting portion of the fountain is its topmost bowl of solid stone, bearing royal insignias of the time of Ferdinand and Isabella, the castles of Castile and the lions of Leon. These are artistically carved on the four sides of the bowl, and are nearly as distinct as when done before 1490. This rare fountain basin was the crown of the municipal fountain of Cordova, Spain. The style of this fountain, with four sides of equal merit, is most appropriate for the center of such a patio, where it is viewed on all sides with great interest.

A Spanish wall fountain like those used on village plazas or near cross streets, where it would best serve the needs of the thirsty public, is built into the wall of the Garden of the Bells. It is of blue and white tile of Moorish design. The bowl of dark red marble is protected by an old metal hood with silvered surface. The water drips into the bowl from a brass lion's head, which is in relief against

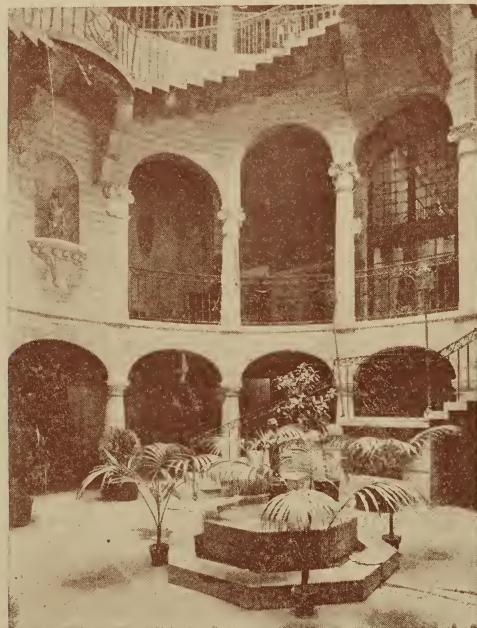


CHERUB FOUNTAIN

the wall surface. The lion is a useful as well as a decorative note, emphasized by a star border of tile. An antique tile plaque of cross design is the topmost decoration, at the base of which a cherub smiles down on the thirsty wayfarer.

The largest fountain is El Rinco de Castilla in the Court of the Birds, the main court of the Mission Inn grounds. Here water splashes all day over huge boulders into a rock-sided pool. The cascades fall over artificial rocks built against a brick wall flanking the sidewalk. Standing before the fountain, shaded by giant bamboo and tropical palms and vines, it is hard to realize that the city paved street is so near. The millstone at the edge of the basin is of volcanic rock brought from Mexico, and was used at one of the California missions of a century ago. Rustic fountains of this sort are very reminiscent of old and new Spain. The floor of the pool is usually lined with

coppers, as visitors have adopted the custom, prevalent from time immemorial at the famous Trevi Fountain in Rome, of dropping one cent coins into the fountain to insure their return to Mission Inn.



GOOSEMAN FOUNTAIN

foreground. The Turtle-Baby Fountain on this same sky garden has more formal lines. It is a corner fountain, whose base and rim are red tile. Blue tile of a soft contrasting shade cover wall wings on each side of an alcoved niche with arched top. In the niche the turtle baby, a winsome stone figure, has his home. He carries a large shell, which drips water, and joyfully rides a large turtle. Graceful iris grow at the sides of the basin. At a higher level, bright blossoms, which festoon the rail of the walk above, and red tile add color to the pleasing ensemble.

Another fountain, Morrish in thought, like those so often found in Spain, is the Star Light Pool. It measures about twelve feet by six, and has low tile walls. It is on the high open "Garden of the Stars" of the Rotunda Wing, where nightly it reflects myriads of

The Alhambra Roof Garden has two attractive fountains. One pool, about fifteen feet by eight, is oval in shape, and bordered with red tile. The luxuriant growth of cattails in its basin gives a delightfully feeling of nature which is enhanced by the superb view of distant mountains, with tall eucalypti and other trees of the neighboring streets forming a tropical

twinkling stars.

The Cherub Fountain in the center of the St. Francis Atrio is distinctly Italian. It is of rich dark bronze, produced many years ago by a leading Italian artist. The cherub sits in the center of a bowl with flowerlike curves, which he has filled with water bubbling from his smiling lips. The bronze bowl is supported by a standard with fish ornamentation, which rises from a cement basin whose outline is of Moorish arabesque design. In the basin are planted pots of iris and water lily. The fresh green of the attractive parrot's feather is especially lovely against the bronze. The dark outline of the fountain is strikingly set off by the light concrete walls of the St. Francis Chapel and Galeria, which partially surround the Atrio.

The Japanese have long been renowned



COURT OF THE ORIENT



EL RINCO DE CASTILLA

for their love of nature. Their rock and water gardens are among the most famous in the world. On the Court of the Orient there is a lovely garden of this sort, with dwarfed evergreen trees and tiny waterfalls. As is the custom in Japan, the rocks have been collected with great care, several in fact having come from Japan, and have been beautifully marked by nature during a course of centuries. A miniature moon bridge spans one side of the deep pool where gold fish dart under shelving rocks and hide beneath lily pads. On one side, standing with its feet in the water, is a Torii, reminding one of the famous huge Torii at Miyajima, whose appearance changes several times a day on account of the ebb and flow of the tide of the sea, whose edge it has guarded for many years. Bronze cranes give a very oriental look to the garden, and a clump of rustling bamboo adds its voice to the soft murmur of the water. Before reaching the rock pool, the water passes under steep steps, on the other side of which is a cascade of water over five feet in height. The wisteria growing near the cascade is especially lovely in the spring months, when it is in full bloom.

The International Rotunda Wing of the Inn has many interesting features. One of the most attractive architectural bits is the Garden of the Arches, where at the very bottom of the Rotunda the Gooseman of Nuremburg is the center of attraction. This gooseman is a trifle smaller than the famous German original, and lacks the iron screen which surrounds the one in Nuremburg. This "Ganasopeon" rises from an octagonal tile basin which is built on a similar tile base of greater diameter. The basin is filled by water spouting from the bills of the two geese held snugly under the arms of the gooseman. He seems very much at home in the setting of Spanish arches and other international surroundings. His nearest neighbor is Joan of Arc in marble, who smiles across at him from a nearby niche.

St. Catherine's Well, just outside the main entrance of the Inn, is the favorite drinking fountain of Joseph and Napoleon, the Brazilian macaws who have been members of the Mission Inn family for many years. It is made of white stone very mellowed with years, and is shaded by tall bam-

Three Evergreen Cherries

... Each Deserving of More Cultivation

Prunus ilicifolia is a native of California along the coast and is quite abundant from Mission Valley north and eastward in the bottoms of the small canyons and on the north and favorable slopes. Its foliage is small and like a holly leaf, hence the name (like the *ilex*). It is of bushy and rather slow growth which is a desirable feature. It makes a superior and permanent hedge, setting the plants 3 to 4 feet apart and also is a good specimen plant. The Marston Gardens has a row along Seventh street that now begins to look like a hedge though not intended for such. Its foliage is handsome and is used in the holiday season as a substitute for English Holly wreaths. Its fruit is reddish, the size of a small marble and is mostly stone. The seeds will germinate in the spring when planted in late fall. They can be planted to form a hedge and be thinned out as they grow. Any seedling plant in place is much more sturdy than plants set out from containers—the root system is so much better established, being very deeply rooted.

Prunus integrifolia is the native Catalina Island Cherry found only on that island. Its foliage is a bright glossy green and as large as pear foliage and it becomes a handsome tree forty feet high under the right conditions. There are a few specimen plants in San Diego that are twenty years old. As a hedge it is excellent when plants are set 4 to 6 feet apart. One fine hedge is on Trias street in Mission Hills, one block from the end of No. 3 carline. Its fruit is dark red, handsome and quite palatable though the seed is very large.

Prunus caroliniana is a native of the Atlantic coast in the Carolinas, and is a popular tree for the Southern

bo. Papyrus and umbrella grass grow at its base. Its old oaken bucket has long been out of use, and serves chiefly as a reminder of the famous song of olden days. The well was named for a guest of long standing who supervised it from its beginning. Its nationality, of course, is very American.

States. It will stand more cold than the two California varieties. It makes a symmetrical tree 30 feet high and has very handsome foliage, leaves thinner with smoother edges than the other two varieties. Its fruit is a small black seed. It has been planted with great success at Santee, El Cajon valley (a very cold location, now the present County Farm), at least fifteen years ago. One plant in Pacific Beach on Soledad Terrace is very perfect and has never had any care or cultivation. A good hedge is by the Francis Parker school on Randolph Street, which has had the very least of care and is only poor where the sidewalk Acacia trees have interfered.

Each of these three evergreen cherries are deserving of more cultivation, as they are so good looking and so drought resistant. Their flowers are insignificant and white.

Eucomis

By E. K. GRAY

Eucomis is derived from the Greek, meaning, beautiful hair or topknot. It belongs to the family liliaceae and is a native of South Africa. The long, broad strap leaves resemble those of the amaryllis family. The leaves on *E. nana* are spotted with purple and this species is now in bloom in my garden. The flower stalk is rather thick, round and spotted with purple spots and topped with a rosette of green leaves edged with purple. All along the stem are minute leaves edged purple. The flowers are waxy white about an inch in diameter are scattered along the flowering stem; center is purple and six yellow stamens at regular intervals around the center. Petals six. They begin opening at the bottom and flowering upward toward the topknot.

Like many South African bulbs they should do well here and are quite a curiosity in the garden.

They are dormant during the winter, starting out again in spring. Grow thrifty and are propagated by offsets taken off during their dormant period.

New Plants from The Mediterranean Region

By ERIC WALTHER

... Many Plants of Merit
Yet to Be Introduced

Part 5.

AS stated before, new plants for our gardens are most apt to be successful here if native to a region having a climate more or less similar to ours. While the most important factor involved must always be that of rainfall, and in particular the seasonal distribution of the same, another one is the minimum winter-temperature the plants in question can withstand. Our sad experience of last season left a lasting impression in this regard, one feature of this being that plants native to the South of Europe, and what here is termed the Mediterranean region, were rather more frost-resistant than introductions from, say, South Africa or Australia. Whatever the cause of this may be, the fact must have some influence on future work of plant-introduction. (Now it might be thought, since our modern art of garden-design and ornamental horticulture took rise, just as modern agriculture, and Western civilization in general, in these lands around the Mediterranean, that very little new or meritorious remains to be introduced from this area.)

(As proof of this statement one needs only mention such old inhabitants of California gardens as the classic Myrtle and Laurel, Olive and Box, Cedar and Sycamore, Italian Cypress and Pomegranate, Rhododendron ponticum and Erica mediterranea, etc., all of which are perfectly adapted to our local climatic peculiarities, as amount and distribution of precipitation, minimum - temperatures, etc.)

This is far from being the truth, as witness the quite recent introduction of such fine things as Clethra arborea from Madeira, best described as an evergreen shrub similar to Laurel in habit and foliage, but bearing flowers resembling Lily-of-the- Valley in shape, arrangement and even fragrance, even though of quite another plant-family. Or we might mention the striking *Echium pininana*, the so-called "Pride of Teneriffe," native to or morning-glory, being a dwarf, non-spreading shrublet with white flowers

the island of that name, and the largest species of the genus, reaching a height of 15 feet or more. Particularly useful for dry rock-gardens is *Convolvulus cneorum*, quite different from the only too common bindweed and intensely silvery foliage comparable to nothing except the unfortunately very tender Silvertree from the Cape.

In spite of its early civilization the Mediterranean Region is by no means finally and completely explored botanically, as witness the discovery, in Bosnia, as recently as 1875, of a new species of *Picea*, *P. Omorika*, and the introduction in 1899 of *Forsythia europaea* from Albania. More recently much new plant-material is being found in the newly-opened-up parts of Morocco, where French botanists have been describing many new species, from the classic Atlas Mountains, etc. And then of course exist many superior forms of more common plants, which are no harder to grow than the less desirable prototypes. For instance, why grow *Cistus villosus* when we could just as well have *C. purpureus*. This is readily the finest Rock-rose known, but until introduced to Golden Gate Park a few years ago was totally unknown here, in spite of its having been grown in Europe for well over 100 years. The genus *Cistus* and its allies deserve more attention, both on account of their ease of culture, and abundance of brightly colored flowers. These are important constituents of a formation known as "Maqui," similar to our California Chaparral, and including such better-known things as Rosemary, Lavender, Myrtle, Pistache, Heather, etc. One striking feature of all of these is their fragrant and aromatic foliage, most conspicuous for instance in *Cistus cyprius*, or even more so the latter's parent, *C. ladaniferus*. The story is told of the latter that its specific cognomen is derived from the Laudanum said to be yielded by the gummy exudation covering its leaves, the best part of this story though is the manner in which the gum is stated to be gathered. Goats

are grazed in the Maqui of which formation this *Cistus* is a part, the gum becomes entangled with the goat's long beard, hair, etc., to be finally harvested when the goats return home. We grant that the story does smell, not to speak of the goats, but so does the *Cistus* in question, which is all we are sure of. About the early part of the last century *Cistus*, etc., was sufficiently popular in England to lead to the publication of a special collection of hand-colored, engraved plates under the title of "Sweets' Cistineae," known to us from the invaluable library of Miss Eastwood at the Academy of Sciences. Many other treasures are there revealed, of which we may mention *Helianthemum* (*Halimium*) *formosum*, very similar to the better known *H. ocymoides*, both of which may be described as yellow-flowered rockroses, each petal with a dark blotch at its base, but *H. formosum*, another recent introduction of Golden Gate Park, seems to be more free-flowering and of lower, more spreading, less ungainly habit than the other.

Another plant-type most promising of yielding further useful material are the brooms. Nothing could be of more easy culture than the so-called Scotch or Spanish brooms, which applies equally to many other, less well known species. Without entering into any detailed discussion we must mention the many fine seedlings of *Cytisus scoparius* var. *Andreanus* and its various descendants now being grown by Mr. S. B. Mitchell of Berkeley, some of which are deserving of a place in any garden. Or we may point to the unexcelled grace of *Genista aetnensis*, yellow-flowered, or *G. monosperma*, with fragrant, white flowers borne along grey-green, leafless, gracefully drooping twigs, in its home known as "Retama."

Another recent re-introduction worthy of mention is *Lavatera Olbia*, a rose-colored mallow congeneric with the native *L. assurgentiflora*, but less woody, more floriferous, and perhaps best treated as biennial.

(Continued on Page 8)

Annual Report of The Secretary

*... Splendid Success Attends
Efforts of Past Year*

Report of the Secretary for the 27th year ending June, 1934.

I will give but a very brief resume of the work of the 27th year of this organization, as each activity is fully written up and printed in the Magazine at the time of its taking place; and as we wish to give most of the evening to our speaker, Mrs. Phillips, and hear her message.

Monthly meetings have been held on each third Tuesday of the month with one exception, when the building was undergoing repairs and not habitable. We have had the same very high standard of speakers, many illustrating their talks with pictures, and with our own beloved Miss Sessions in attendance always ready with helpful information and advice.

Our Flower Shows, both spring and fall, were beautiful and educational. There is a keen spirit of flower growing among our exhibitors which helps to produce much improvement and excellence of bloom in all classes. Commercialism is always held in abeyance, which expresses the good judgment and discrimination of the Board of Directors and makes for a real flower show, and as our shows are always a big financial success, it proves we are really trying to help the amateur grower.

The House Committee has had rather a hard year trying to keep up their standard of social activities as our building has been long under repairs, but the Chrysanthemum show many thought the finest we had ever had. The Cyclamen Card Party with the vivid blooms on each table, the festive Christmas meeting with the living tree surrounded with gaily wrapped potted plants for each guest, and with Mrs. Tuttle's Girl Scouts carrying lighted candles and singing carols all added pleasure to our work as well as funds to the treasury as wreaths and berried shrubs were sold after the meeting. I might add that while these social activities are opened to the public free, we have had many donations of fine shrubs, bulbs and

both double and single poinsettias which were sold after the meetings and netting us a nice sum over expenses. We wish to extend thanks and appreciation to these many contributors for their generosity.

An added activity this summer was the furnishing of bouquets for each guest registered at the twelve largest hotels, and who were in attendance at the State Convention of Social Workers. Also we furnished 125 bouquets for Shut-Ins' Day.

There has been much work and improvement at the Aloe and Agave Garden on Park boulevard, making a lovely hillside of a formerly very ugly spot.

A change in the policy and form of the Magazine, "California Garden," entailed much work and thought for the Board of Directors and our editor, Mr. Osborn. One can hardly realize in these days of strife and self-centered interests that an organization like this can depend upon the voluntary contributions of noted horticulturists and writers for material for our magazine. Many of these writers have stood by this association for over a quarter of a century, helping it to retain the high standard it has always had. Illness of our Editor and delay in the change over necessitated combining three issues, but we are now running more smoothly and hope the magazine will make its appearance the first of each month regularly. Please do not hide your talents; if you have a message to give garden lovers, submit it to the Editor—he needs your co-operation and support; he is a very busy man in the agricultural field and he needs assistance. We need hundreds of new members and subscribers, too, so we can run the magazine in the blue or black, and not have to fill it with advertisements to make both ends meet as many magazines have to do.

In conclusion, this association deeply appreciates the work of the Board of Directors, the House Committee, the Editor and all the faithful, loyal

members who always respond to the many calls for the various activities to assist the President in her efforts. We have lost many, many of the older members by death and many more by withdrawals, but we have also had over fifty new members and subscribers. We need many more.

Each individual member appreciates that but for the constant endless thought and planning of these varied activities by our beloved President, Mrs. Greer, this organization would fall by the wayside, so with grateful hearts we extend to her our compliments on this successful year, and with her be happy that we all belong to this Association.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY E. WARD,

Secretary.

June 19, 1934.

Peat Moss

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Would You Have a Green Lawn?

By H. O. KETTNER

German peat moss may be properly applied to the soil in two distinctly different ways. Both are right under certain conditions and they lead to the same end, but temporarily they serve different purposes. I refer to its use *on* the ground and *in* the ground. At this season of the year peat moss should usually be applied as a mulch on the surface of the ground.

Applied as a mulch, German peat moss prevents evaporation, insulates the surface, prevents the sun from burning the roots of tender plants, prevents cracking and hardening of the soil surface, renders frequent cultivation unnecessary and prevents the growth of weeds on cultivated soils.

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead" that he would not enjoy a beautiful lawn around his home? Undoubtedly a plain board shack can be made attractive if surrounded by a well kept lawn, but the elegance otherwise created in a home by wealth and cultured taste fails to impress us deeply if the lawn is not in keeping.

In San Diego, with its equable climate we have the possibility of a beautiful lawn the whole year. Don't let anyone tell you that German peat moss should be used only in the spring or the fall or at any other particular time. San Diego soil must have organic matter to produce satisfactory results. This fact is of much greater importance than the time of year at which it is used. It is important, however, that you apply it *according to the season*—if you are putting it into the soil it is more practical to use it between the seasons of greatest growth, but German peat moss may be used as a mulch at any time.

In using German peat moss on an established lawn apply not over one-half inch in depth—just enough to settle between the grass plants and keep the sun from scorching the roots and baking the ground. Apply it evenly when the grass is dry. Over the peat moss apply a good lawn fer-

... Pertinent Directions for Care of Lawns

tilizer according to the instructions of the manufacturer, and then immediately sprinkle the lawn thoroughly to settle the peat moss between the grass plants and to wash the plant food off the leaves. This is very important. German peat moss will not burn your grass, but fertilizer is quite likely to do so unless you are careful. Repeat the above treatment two or three times each year. One bale peat moss will probably be enough for 800 square feet.

A lawn should not be watered by turning the force of the water pressure directly on to it from a hand hose. That bares the roots to the sun and often does actual harm. It seldom moistens the ground more than one-half inch in depth. Wherever possible use a stationary spray and leave it in one spot until the ground is soaked below the limit of the roots. This does not disturb the surface mulch and it induces the roots to grow deeper, thereby coming in contact with more moisture and plant food. If you must use a hand nozzle in certain places turn it to a misty spray and let the water fall lightly at some distance. After you have thoroughly soaked the lawn do not water it again until the appearance of the grass shows it is needed.

If you following the above suggestions carefully your grass should be a rich dark green, with all the freshness of spring-time the whole year. It will need mowing more often than before and it should be mowed exactly when it is needed. Don't mow your grass once a week—mow it when it is at the proper height. Leave the clippings on the lawn unless you have allowed it to get so long that the clippings form a swath—then they should be carefully removed. One-half inch clipped from the tops of grass will not weaken the plants—an inch or more is too much.

Next month "German Peat Moss for Mulching Shrubbery and Flower Beds."

What We Recommend We Do

We came to you last winter telling you how much you need German peat moss in your soil.

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Useful Plants of U.S. and Canada

By LESTER ROUNTREE

If you have never gone with Indians on acorn hunts you will never have sensed what an important part native plant foods can play in the life of a human being.

Aeons of palate pampering lie between theirs and our present menus, and although the ice cream cone, canned provisions, chewing gum and other modern gastronomic inventions are well and favorably known to the present generation of Indians, the older people, especially, still resort to their primitive methods for obtaining food from natural sources.

Before the advent of the white men the Indians were self-sufficient and found in Nature the material satisfactions for all their needs.

In Charles Francis Saunders' most recent book, "Useful Plants of the United States and Canada" (McBride, \$3.00), he gives us a very good idea of how we might manage if we had to depend entirely on our natural sources of supply. It would be an alluring game if one had time to play it.

The book is one to stir the imagination. In it we read of unsuspected salutary properties in well-known plants; of ingenious methods which the Indians evolved for utilizing these values while scattered through the volume are many pleasant bits of gossip about early collectors and explorers.

Although a large number of California native plants are included, the book has unusual appeal for readers in all parts of the United States and will be a valuable reference book, gathering between its covers data on plants use which has heretofore been widely scattered.

Not only is each food or medicinal value defined, but the reader is told in practical language how to apply the information—how bread is made from sunflower seed or acorn meal; how to concoct yucca pod conserve; what to do with miner's lettuce. We learn that an infusion of our wild yarrow is a tonic and that yerba is good for coughs; that the branches of beau-

... A Review By Lester Rountree

tiful Dalea (Parosela, emoryi) make a yellow-brown dye and that the datura has strange poisonous properties.

It is a book which, when once taken up, is not easily put aside. Also, it is a book to dip into for small and interesting doses of plant information.

The volume is a new and revised edition of Mr. Saunders "Useful Wild Plants" of 1920. The excellent illustrations comprise both photographs by the author and many half-tone and line draws by Lucy Hamilton Aring. The regional index at the close of the book is of especial value for reference work. Here the "Useful Plants" are segregated and grouped according to their qualities (medicinal plants; dye plants, food plants, etc.) and placed under geographic headings (East of Rockies, Pacific Slope).

With this book along, one need never starve in the "back country."

NEW PLANTS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN

(Continued from Page 5)

Space is lacking to treat of the many drought-resistant rock-plants native to this floral province, as the various kinds of Thyme and Mint, *Helianthemum* and Heath, *Hypericum* and *Coronilla*, or the many, in part well known, bulbs and annuals or perennials, as Iris, Tulip, Narcissus, etc., whose species are by no means all grown here now.

To point out just one item certainly worthy of an attempt at its introduction we wish to call attention to *Echium coeleste*, from the Canary Islands, discovered and named only a few years ago, its flowers being of truly celestial blue, by far the finest blue-flowered species of this genus, even if monocarpic as most of its members, and figured in color in "Curtis Botanical Magazine," plate 19.

Who shall be the first to flower this in California?

A SAND BINDER

It may be of interest to know a few facts concerning the sand area adjoining Glorieta Bay on Coronado which was formed by the dredging of Glorieta Bay, about 1920. It was necessary to control the sand on these few acres so it would not blow and drift over the road and also upon the gardens facing Glorieta Boulevard. Mr. John McLaren, superintendent of Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, was asked for advice, as that park was almost entirely sand dunes which had to be controlled.

Amophyllum arenaria, commonly called "sea bent grass," which grows about three feet high, which he had successfully used, and he donated 100 sacks of the roots to the Coronado Beach Co. It was planted in October, 1921, and within a year the drifting sand was practically under control.

In the sand areas of the Northwest Morocco, North Africa, the French government have been reclaiming that desert and have found *Retama boveii* to be successful in controlling the drifting sand. We know the plant here as our very desirable "Bridal Veil Genista"—*Genista monospermum*—which has greyish threadlike foliage and small white blossoms. Mr. David Fairchild sent a half-pound of this seed to San Diego from Gibraltar in 1926, but it was already growing here though not common. It is a winter and early spring bloomer and should be more generously planted for its fragrance as well as its beauty.

"The Garden Notebook" is composed of fifty-two gardening articles for the beginner, and, although written apparently for eastern gardeners, is an admirable garden guide for California amateurs.

It covers the sowing of seeds and the care of seedlings, gives the working rules for annuals and perennials, explains the handling of bulbs, the processes of making cuttings and of lawn making, and contains sound garden advice on all the essential points.

These techniques are intelligently and clearly illustrated with many drawings by the author, Alfred Putz, which combine with the text to make as complete a garden mentor as can be purchased for the small sum of \$1.50 (Doubleday, Doran & Co.).

LESTER ROUNTREE,
Carmel, California.

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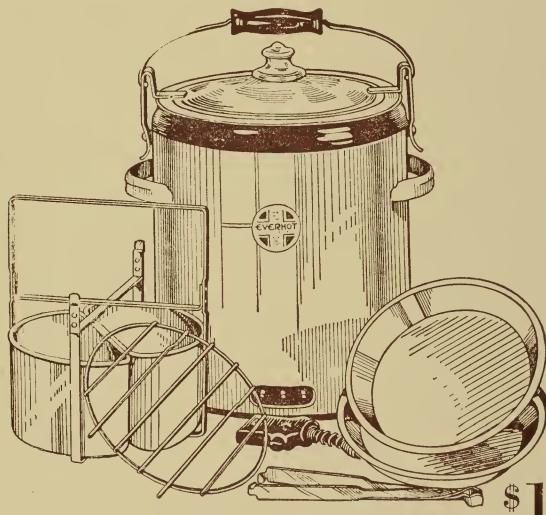
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